

CHiPS Committee Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2015

Present: Peggy Shippen, Chair, Kappy Eaton, Marian Spath, Carene Davis-Stitt

1. Update from last meeting:

- Peggy contacted 4J about the feasibility and cost of a field trip to the Capitol for Middle School students. The Instruction Coordinator's secretary said she would check into it and call back. So far, no word.
- Peggy gave a 3-minute Speech to the 4J School Board on October 7th. It was received positively. Peggy gave them a copy of Diana Owens Study and Project Citizen program flyers and Project Citizen workbooks. The speech is attached.
- No word on whether or not the South Eugene H.S. Feminist Club has been formed and would like our help.
- Carol Miller pointed out to Peggy the latest Teaching Tolerance Magazine cover story is all about Voting and how teachers can incorporate that into their classes. Peggy contacted Kate Schuster who arranged to have 6 of the magazines sent for samples and distribution.

Kate Shuster also pointed out that the Guide in the Selma – Bridge to Ballot Video is directed to civic involvement with regard to voting rights. We might share these w/ Social Studies Teachers at an Inservice Table like we did with the Teaching Tolerance materials.

- Kappy, Peggy, Trish Garner AAUW-Oregon's Public Policy Chair and Anita Owens, League of Women Voters, went to the Capitol on Sept. 29th and met with Rep Paul Evans to get his suggestions for increasing education. Rep Evans has a civics bill that he will be introducing the fall of 2016. Essentially, the bill required each school district to select a civics test that all students will have to pass in order to graduate. The district will then put together an educational plan for all students to make that happen. Rep Evens will send a copy of the bill to all of us. Kappy and Trish will evaluate it this winter.
- Other suggestions Rep Evans had for how AAUW and the League of Women Voters can help increase civics education and participation are:

Sponsor trips for Middle School students to the Capitol;

Encourage students to become involved in the YMCA Youth and Government Program (school teams learn how to write a bill and actually present it in the Capitol chambers in a mock legislative session).
Rep Evans will send us the information on that program. He'll also

include Nekole Baurer, the director's, contact information. Financial assistance is available but AAUW could sponsor students. Price is reasonable.

- Peggy reported on her chat with Springfield School District Secondary Instruction Coordinator, Kevin Ricker. He expressed an interest in the YMCA Youth in Government Program.
- Chat with Fern Ridge School District – Cindy Parker is still working to obtain an appointment.
- Chat with Bethel School District
Peggy reported on her chat with Carlos Sequeria, Collaboration Director & Brian Fleck, Director of Instruction. They want AAUW to consider partnering with the City Club's Alliance for Civic Education (ACE) Program spearheaded by City Club member, Marlene Nesary. Peggy agreed to meet with all parties to discuss this @ Bethel on October 13th. Committee members were invited to attend.
- Meeting with City Club – Marlene Nesary
Peggy reported on her conversation with Marlene Nesary to learn more about the City Club's ACE Project discussed above. The purpose of the program is “to create new opportunities for Oregon students, people of color and others who are under-represented in local community leadership to learn and practice the skills and competencies of active citizenship.”

The program is the brainchild of Marlene and in its formation. Marlene has raised \$6,000 from the City Club and is looking for other organizations to raise money to hire a director (Marlene) and provide scholarships for Interns to help implement the program with K-12 student participants. Interns will be paid a stipend to work with students to “meet regularly with the City Club's Program Committee and help plan and produce weekly issue forums and radio broadcasts.”

“Area school district will be invited to identify a small group of Civic Scholars to attend one or more regular City Club programs and to participate in a “Democracy Olympics”. Marlene said; “The Democracy Olympics may showcase mock trials, and city council presentations, real-time community problem solving etc.”

2. Discussion – What CHiPS projects are feasible? After some discussion, the committee agreed we should offer schools:

- A list of AAUW branch members who are willing to talk to social studies classes or clubs about their personal experiences with civic involvement, including with AAUW. We will pass around a sign-up sheet for interested members to sign and indicate what topics they would be willing to discuss. Peggy will distribute the list to the schools.

- Host an Information Table for teachers at Fall Inservice 2016 on civics programs that are available to students and teachers. For example: Project Citizen and the YMCA Youth and Government programs and Teaching Tolerance videos and magazine.
- Perhaps sponsor 3-4 female students who would like to participate in the YMCA's Youth and Government program.
- Committee members are intrigued by the City Club's ACE Project but are not interested in giving program start-up money to hire a director. AAUW donations need to go to fund student participation (travel, meals, materials). Committee members expressed concerned about what active-learning civic students would actually be doing other than helping the City Club Program Committee plan programs and attending City Club meetings. Would they be speaker-participants? Would they be able to promote a civic change?

3. CHiPS website design meeting is @ Wendy Cook's home on Oct 15th @ 4:00. All committee members are invited to give input on what CHiPS info we want to put on our branch website re: CHiPS. Wendy will be leading this effort.

4. Suggestions for topics & speakers for the State Convention?
None yet...we need to see whether or not any of the schools are interested in having us sponsor female students and whether or not Trish and Kappy think Rep Paul Evans civics bill is one AAUW should support.

5. Next CHiPS Committee Meeting Oct. 15th @ Wendy Cook's after the CHiPS Website meeting. Peggy will report on her meeting at Bethel with Carlos Sequeria and Marlene Nessary.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Shippen, CHiPS Chair